



**U.S. Coast Guard
Marine Safety Office Tampa**



**MSO Tampa Commercial Parasail Vessel Safety Workshop; 21JAN04
Key Parasail Industry Issues Identified by the Participants.**

The following is a list that captures those items/ issues that were presented by the meeting participants during the Safety Discussion. This list was reviewed at the end of the meeting, and a general consensus was reached that these represented the key issues the parasail industry must address in the future. They are, in no particular order:

- Insurance:
 - Rules/regs of organization to promote the industries insurability.
 - Demographics
 - Rates
 - Safety = Insurance
 - Safety program = better competition and more interest in the insurance industry.
 - Lack of competition.
- Safety standards (OSAG), across the country through associations or regulation. Seal of Safety or other endorsement or certification is assurance to the consumer.
- Operators Lack of Conformity: Join and Alliance. Get ONE VOICE. Get under a main organization/association umbrella- like PAPO; regs, rules we can all live and operate under and have ownership of.
- PAPO to broaden guidelines, to allow for differences in geographical area (Gulf vs East Coast vs Outer Banks)
- Issue of compliance, develop a compliance program. Who will run this program? Self or industry led enforcement vs governmental led enforcement?
- Issue of the rogue operator, no enforcement options.
- Issue, how does the industry organize to reduce rates, improve safety, and increase consumer confidence? Committee embracing multiple organizations presenting a united message.
- Training programs, safety and regulatory.
- Takes money to initiate, operate, and police an association. Willing to invest money into the self-regulation program.
- Use organization, association, to act as liaison to an insurance company to negotiate premiums. Furthermore, an association can negotiate with equipment manufactures and regulatory agencies for the benefit of the members. Allow the operators to focus on operations and marketing.
- Train law enforcement agencies (Federal, state, local); support them in their efforts to develop initiatives.
- Risk management programs.
- Government regulations? Issue of being constrained by regulation that is difficult to modify.

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- Develop regional chapters to a national organization (PAPO etc).
- Provide input to an organization; decide on how to determine that organization.
- Inaction may mean a lose-lose situation for operators.
- Something (guidelines) will give breathing room until a more specific consensus can be developed in the form of standards.
- Voted on consensus that an organization is needed.
- Voted to investigate PAPO (www.teampapo.org) and provide input/feedback on the guidelines as an initial step by operators.
- Create a Parasail legislative committee for Florida.
- Create a steering committee with an impartial liaison to guide involved parties.
- No Burning crusade to make change; but change is coming!!
- Accidents occur w/ experienced operators (5yrs)
- 94% of accidents are avoidable
- Media will focus on the negatives; every accident puts the spotlight on the industry.
- Need to make a distribution List; maintain a means to disseminate information.
- Sustain a profit by operating safely.
- Laws/Regs from NJ, Australia, and UK.
- This industry could be dangerous, but fun and profitable if done safely.
- CG Inspected vessels do not reduce insurance rates.